

Revelation 2:1-17

2:1-7 (CSB): The Letter to Ephesus

2 *“Write to the angel of the church in Ephesus: Thus says the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and who walks among the seven golden lampstands: ² **I know** your works, your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot tolerate evil people. You have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and you have found them to be liars. ³ **I know** that you have persevered and endured hardships for the sake of my name, and you have not grown weary. ⁴ But I have this against you: You have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember then how far you have fallen; **repent**, and do the works you did at first. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you **repent**. ⁶ Yet you do have this: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ “Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”*

1. The title of Jesus:
 - One who holds the seven stars and walks among the golden lampstands.
2. The City:
 - Mentioned in Acts – Letter from Paul
 - Extremely important trade city.
 - Pagan worship was prevalent.
3. The Affirmation:
 - He knows – works, labor, endurance, unwillingness to tolerate evil people, test false apostles.
 - He knows – persevered & endured hardship, not grown weary.
 - They hate the practices of the Nicolaitans as does Jesus.
4. The Offense:
 - They have abandoned the love they had at first.
5. The Command
 - Repent – do the works at first.
 - Repent – or the lampstand will be removed.
6. The Guidance:
 - *Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.*

2:8-11 (CSB): The Letter to Smyrna

8 *“Write to the angel of the church in Smyrna: Thus says the First and the Last, the one who was dead and came to life: ⁹ **I know** your affliction and poverty, but you are rich. **I know** the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Don’t be afraid of what you are about to suffer. Look, the devil is about to **throw some of you into prison** to test you, and **you will experience affliction** for ten days. Be faithful to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ “Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will never be harmed by the second death.”*

1. The title of Jesus:
 - First and Last, the One who was dead and came to life.
2. The City:
 - Hotbed of Emperor worship.
 - Great persecution.

- Polycarp (disciple of John) was martyred there in 150 AD. Burned and stabbed.
3. The Affirmation:
 - He knows – their affliction and poverty.
 - He knows – the slander coming from outsiders.
 4. The Offense:
 - Not one mentioned.
 5. The Command:
 - Don't be afraid of suffering.
 - We are reminded by the believers' experience in Smyrna, that the enemy is real and desires to destroy us.
 6. The Guidance:
 - *Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.*

2:12-17 (CSB): The Letter to Pergamum

¹² *Write to the angel of the church in Pergamum: Thus says the one who has the sharp, double-edged sword:* ¹³ *I know where you live—where Satan's throne is. Yet you are holding on to my name and did not deny your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness who was put to death among you, where Satan lives.* ¹⁴ *But I have a few things against you. You have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to place a stumbling block in front of the Israelites: to eat meat sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality.* ¹⁵ *In the same way, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.* ¹⁶ *So repent! Otherwise, I will come to you quickly and fight against them with the sword of my mouth.* ¹⁷ *Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name is inscribed that no one knows except the one who receives it.*

1. The title of Jesus:
 - One who has the sharp, double-edged sword.
2. The City:
 - Capitol city of Asia Minor.
 - Modern day city of Bergama, Turkey.
 - Worldliness not only described the city, unfortunately it described the church as well.
 - Where Satan's throne is.
3. The Affirmation:
 - Even in the mist of Satanic presence...holding to the name of Jesus and not denying their faith in Jesus.
4. The Offense:
 - They have embraced false teachings.
5. The Command:
 - They must repent.
6. The Guidance:
 - *Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.*